if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

Does not arise.

The Planning Commission uses a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine poverty. The per capita consumption norm has been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The State-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using State-specific price indices and inter-State price differentials. This criteria now , being used by the Planning Commission is based on the recommendations of an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. D.T. Lakdawala with eminent persons in the area of poverty estimation as members.

Monitoring of work of exploration

3332.SHRIMATI SYEDAANWARATAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that CAG has alleged about the "sloppy monitoring of the work relating to exploration during the Tenth Plan", resulting in huge financial losses;

whether such shortcomings were noticed in the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Plan;

if so, whether these were brought to the notice of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry, as also to the ONGC;

whether corrective measures were taken by ONGC; and

the steps suggested to ONGC to avoid such recurrences during Eleventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes Sir, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG) has informed Planning Commission, that the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) has recently forwarded their observations to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG) on an audit titled "Deep water Exploration" relating to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). They have observed that some unfruitful expenditure has been incurred by ONGC.

(b) and (c) No Sir, Mid term appraisal reviews performance against physical targets and financial outlays.

(d) and (e) As the observations have been furnished recently by C&AG to MOP&NG, the issues on such recurrences on operational matters will be discussed with MOP&NG and ONGC to suggest the corrective measures. However, the Eleventh plan document has suggested adoption of latest technology to carry out exploration and production activities in timely manner without incurring cost overruns.